

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 02321 182146Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----182149Z 128727 /62

R 181737Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5606
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 2321

EXDIS
STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, GT, US
SUBJ: U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA

REF: STATE 83680

1. WE BELIEVE GUATEMALAN NOTE CONCERNING DEPARTMENT REPORT
ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON ANY OF OUR
FY 1977 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS EXCEPT FMS CREDIT, WHICH
HAS BEEN POLITELY DECLINED (GUATEMALA 2158).

2. WE TAKE THE GUATEMALAN NOTE TO MEAN THAT GUATEMALA WILL
NOT WANT ANY IMETP OR FMS CREDIT FOR FY 1978. HOWEVER, WE
WOULD HOPE THAT A PRESENTATION COULD BE MADE TO CONGRESS
WHICH WOULD PREVENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THESE PROGRAMS FOR
GUATEMALA FROM BEING DELETED FROM THE FY 1978 LEGISLATION.
GUATEMALA HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED TO BE INELIGIBLE FOR
SECURITY ASSISTANCE UNDER THE HUMAN RIGHTS OR ANY OTHER
PROVISIONS OF THE LEGISLATION. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE
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THAT IT IS IN U.S. INTEREST TO PROVIDE SECURITY ASSIS-
TANCE TO GUATEMALA. WE HAVE TRIED SINCE RECEIPT OF THE
GUATEMALAN NOTE TO MAKE CLEAR TO MILGP AND EMBASSY
CONTACTS THAT THE DOOR REMAINS OPEN ON THE U.S. SIDE,
AND THAT ANY DECISION TO CLOSE IT, WHOLLY OR PARTLY,
WILL BE A GUATEMALAN ONE. DELETION OF FUNDING FOR
GUATEMALA FROM THE 1978 LEGISLATION WILL INEVITABLY BE MADE

TO APPEAR HERE IS IF U.S., NOT GUATEMALA, HAS DECIDED TO CUT OFF ASSISTANCE.

3. WE HAVE SOME INDICATIONS THAT GOG MAY CONTINUE TO REQUEST FMS CASH PURCHASES EVEN AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1977. WE ARE THEREFORE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS NOT TO BE FACED WITH ANY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WHICH WOULD TERMINATE AUTHORITY FOR FMS CASH SALES TO GUATEMALA.

4. WE SHOULD HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF GUATEMALAN INTENTIONS WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DOD IS IN THE PROCESS OF ISSUING ALREADY APPROVED LETTERS OF OFFER TO GUATEMALA FOR 6 UH-1H HELICOPTERS AS FMS CASH SALE. GOG DECISION TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THOSE LETTERS MAY INDICATE THEIR FUTURE POLICY. ALSO, MILGP WILL HAVE TO BEGIN IN MAY, OR AT THE LATEST, IN JUNE TO DISCUSS IMET PROGRAMMING FOR FY 1978, EVEN THOUGH CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON FY 1978 PROGRAM WILL NOT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY THAT TIME. WHETHER OR NOT GOG WILLINGLY PROCEEDS WITH PROGRAMMING SHOULD REVEAL THEIR INTEREST OR LACK OF IT IN CONTINUED TRAINING.

5. IN SHORT, WE BELIEVE GUATEMALA DID NOT THINK THROUGH ALL OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF ITS DECISION AT THE TIME IT SENT US ITS NOTE, AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT IF WE CAN REFRAIN FROM PUSHING THEM INTO PREMATURE DECISIONS THEY MAY YET DECIDE TO CONTINUE SOME PROGRAMS -- EVEN AT PRICE OF CONTINUED HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING.

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